

[DOCUMENT No. 7.]

SECOND

REPORT

OF D. RIDGELY,

STATE LIBRARIAN,

TO THE

EXECUTIVE OF MARYLAND,

In relation to the Collection of

Documents, Papers, &c.

Ordered to be deposited

IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER.

ANNAPOLIS.

JEREMIAH HUGHES, PRINTER.

1836.

REPORT OF THE

COMMISSIONER OF

THE STATE OF

NEW YORK

FOR THE YEAR

1890

EXECUTIVE OF

THE STATE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE

SENATE

AND

ASSEMBLY

STATE LIBRARY.

Annapolis, October 10, 1835.

To the Governor and Council,
Gentlemen,

The undersigned, does himself the honor to report again to the Executive, the progress he has made in his researches in accordance with Resolution No. 44 of last session.

It has been a source of the greatest regret to every one who has had occasion to turn his attention to the history of this State, to find the records of that history so barren and imperfect. Few, if any of the public offices, have preserved complete records of their proceedings from their first institution to the present time. The history of years and scores of years, in which some of the most interesting and important events transpired, have until lately been almost as entirely unknown to us as if no annalist had recorded them, and vague traditions and detached scraps of records have hitherto supplied the only information concerning them.

Mr. McMahon in his history of Maryland, frequently pauses to express this regret at the barrenness of our annals; and no one who reads that history, can but deeply sympathise with him, and the more so when he reflects that our native historian, so eminently qualified by rare endowments to rear up a history which would be a lasting monument to his own fame and the glory of his native State, had such meagre and imperfect documents within his reach. This deficiency in the records of Maryland, may it is presumed be partly accounted for, because of the frequent removals of the Seat of Government from one point of the State to another, and partly because of the internal dissensions and revolutions with which the early history of our State was marked.

It is confidently believed, that much of what has heretofore been lost has been reclaimed from the tomb in which

they have lain buried for years and much of what was imperfect, has been perfected by the discoveries the undersigned has made.

Immediately after the adjournment of the Executive in August last, with the aid of John H. Culbreth, Esq. (whom the undersigned had associated with him in all his researches, and whose qualifications for the discharge of the duties growing out of said resolution, are too well known to your honorable board to need any thing further from me, than the mention of his name, to insure your approbation of my selection) he proceeded to the examination of the late Auditor General's Office. Many documents and papers of a highly interesting and important character were found. After referring the Executive to the list accompanying this Report, he begs leave to call their attention particularly to the nature and value of some of these papers; and he would begin with—

The Manuscript Proceedings of a meeting of Delegates appointed by the several counties of the Province of Maryland, in this city on the 2d day of July, 1775, and continued in session 'till the 14th of August ensuing.

The rescue of this Document alone from loss and decay, is worth all the labor and expense that have been bestowed throughout the whole of the research. It is the corner stone of the republican history of Maryland, and upon which the superstructure of our present form of government has been so successfully and happily reared.

This Assembly created and appointed the Council of Safety for the Province and took such other decisive measures as were virtually a declaration of independence.

Mr. McMahon in his historical view of Maryland, says: "In closing the history of the Conventional Government of Maryland, we shall surprize the reader by the fact, that the State has not in her archives, *unless very recently obtained*, a single memorial of its existence or operations."

The undersigned is happy in being able to report to the Executive, and for the information of that distinguished son of Maryland, that many of the State's Conventional proceedings have been brought to light in the course of the present researches.

In addition to the above mentioned document, the original Manuscript Proceedings of the Convention of 1775 and 1776, (though injured) have been found, also, the Original Proceedings of the Council of Safety for 1775, 1776, and 1777, with rough minutes of their proceedings as far down

as 1778, have been preserved; exhibiting an interesting and curious example of the combination of the Legislative, Judicial and Executive powers, in a single body of men. And it is truly astonishing, that notwithstanding this form of government was little short of absolute despotism, yet such was the devotedness of the spirits who composed it, to the common cause, that the exercise of their dangerous powers were ever governed by a just regard for the good of the whole.

The Land Office was next examined, where only one folio MS. of the proceedings of the Lower House of the Province for 1714 to 1722, was found. The Legislative Committee rooms have also undergone an examination, from which were obtained some important documents, all going to illustrate the early history of our present form of government, and to demonstrate the truly public and patriotic spirit by which our forefathers were influenced in all their actions. Let the people of Maryland but have the benefit of these researches, meagre as they are, yet they would have no cause to blush—but abundant reason to rejoice in the noble position assumed and maintained by their native state in the cause of virtue and untrammelled liberty; as they now rejoice in the possession of substantial blessings, resulting from the virtues and patriotism of their noble ancestors.

The labors assigned under the resolution, are about being brought to a close, and perhaps this may be the final report of the undersigned, at least until he can find some avenue by which he can come at the papers in the Treasury vaults. Application has been made to the treasurer for that purpose, but no access it appears could be had. The longer they remain in their present place of deposit, are they subject to still greater decay and perhaps to final destruction. Should the Executive deem it of sufficient importance to take some direction in regard to these papers, the undersigned will feel it his duty to carry their determination into effect. And that they are highly important papers, there can exist no reasonable doubt.

Mr. McMahon, in speaking of the royal government of this Province, states a deficiency in the records of that period from 1688 to 1692. That this deficiency with that of others equally known to exist, it is fervently to be hoped, may yet be made up, and while there is even a distant hope to cheer him in the labors of the research, the undersigned respectfully offers his services to the Executive; holding as he does the sentiment expressed by one of the eminent men

of our country on a similar occasion, that "The men of the present age are under a sacred obligation, both to that which has passed, and to that which is to come, to preserve the recorded virtues of their forefathers, for the instruction and emulation of their posterity."

Already have documents, heretofore supposed to be lost forever to history, sufficient to form several volumes of the civil and documentary history of the Province and the State, been brought to light; and if they were judiciously selected and compiled, with that view, permit him to say, there is no one thing that would be better adapted to shed a true light on the history of those times, and place Maryland, if possible on a prouder eminence than she now manifestly holds among her sister states of the Union.

Besides the list now reported of documents and papers found since his first report, he presents the Executive with a general list of all such as have been collected, marked No. 1, 2 and 3, designating the offices where the contents of each number have been deposited.

All which is respectfully submitted,

D. RIDGELY.

*Original MS. Documents, Letters and other Papers found
in the Auditor General's Office.*

Files of Papers selected from the Council of Safety's Papers, from Letter A. to Letter Z. inclusive, 1775 1776.

Files of Letters to the Council of Safety, from A. to E. H. to T. W and Y. inclusive, 1775 and '76.

Files of Letters written by the Council of Safety from A. to N. and from S. Z 1775 and 1776.

Original Draft of the Constitution of the Council of Safety, dated June 14th 1775.

Files of the Original Reports and Resolves of the Convention and of the Council of Safety, 1775 and 1776.

Original Report on the Emission of Bills of credit to the amount of \$5,35,111 11 &c. being report No. 18.

The Manuscript Proceedings at a Meeting of the Delegates appointed by the several counties of the Province of Maryland, at the city of Annapolis on Wednesday the 2d day of July 1775, and continued till the 14th day of August in the same year. From the perusal of these highly interesting proceedings, we find this Assembly of Delegates originated and appointed the Council of Safety for the Province. Also, the enrolment of the minute men, organized the militia and resolved upon the issue of bills of credit, &c. in fact, was the ground work of the government we now have the happiness to live under.

Correspondence between the Conventions of Maryland and Virginia 1775.

A File of "Express Letters," from various points of the Union, to the Convention of Maryland, affording information of the battle of Lexington, &c. &c. 1775.

Correspondence and Proceedings of the Committees of Observation of the several counties of the Province, 1776.

Original Draft of the Bill of Rights and Amendments by

the Committee of the whole, together with the amendments of the form of government.

Original Letters from such distinguished men as Patrick Henry, John Hancock, Edmund Pendleton, Benjamin Franklin, Robert Morris, Lafayette, &c. &c. upon subjects connected with the common cause of the colonies.

Action of the Maryland Convention, relative to the disputed Territory and jurisdiction between Maryland and Virginia.

A Manuscript of the Declaration of the Convention, 'empowering our Deputies in Congress, to join with a majority of the United Colonies in declaring them free and Independent States,' &c. &c. This document was evidently drawn up on the 3d day of July 1776, and upon reference to the printed journal of the convention in the possession of Jonas Green, Esq. find it to have been entered on said journal on the 6th day of July 1776, preceded by the following resolve:—Resolved, That the following Declaration be entered on the Journal of this Convention.

Proceeding of the Committee of Observation for Baltimore, in consequence of intercepted Letters from Lord George Germaine to Governor Eden; also, several of the said intercepted letters, 1776'

Letters to and from the Convention and our Deputies in Congress on various subjects, &c.

Several files of letters from General Washington, and other distinguished persons to the Governor and Council, containing important information, relative to the movements of the American troops and of the enemy, &c. &c. 1781.

File of Letters from Messrs. Chase, Stone, Paca, Johnson, &c. Deputies in Congress, 1776.

The Original Account of Colonel Thomas Cresap against Lord Baltimore, for sundry articles purchased and expended in running the meridian line from the first fountain of Potomac, with the vouchers, &c. dated July 11, 1771, amounting to more than £1000.

Plats and Certificates of Nanticoke Indian Lands, Arrears of Quit Rents, and other papers relating to the Land Office, 1767 and 1783.

Test Book of the Council of Safety—the Convention and of the Executive Council from 1777 to '82.

Alphabetical List of discharged soldiers of two battalions

of militia raised to serve in the continental army in the year 1781.

- An Original Letter from General Washington to Governor Johnson, making a requisition of 500 militia, dated 17th of May, 1778. Also, several authenticated copies of Letters from the same to Governor Lee, in one of which he says, 'My present engagements will not allow me to add more than my congratulations on this happy event (alluding to the surrender of the British army at York) and to express the high sense I have of the powerful aid which I have derived from the State of Maryland, in complying with my every request to the Executive of it,' dated October 1781.
- A MS. copy of the Articles of Capitulation between General George Washington, &c. &c. and Earl Cornwallis, done at York, in Va. this 19th day of October 1781.
- Book of Entries of Orders issued by the Governor and Council on the Treasury in 1782 and 1783.
- Alphabetical List of Privates of the Maryland Line to whom five months pay was advanced, &c. in 1780 and 1781, with other papers and Letters relating to the officers and soldiers of the Revolutionary War, 1782 and 1783.
- Amount and valuation of real and personal property in the several counties of this State in 1783.
- Several files of Original Letters from and to the Governor and Council, 1783.
- A List of Real and Personal property in Allegany county, in 1793.
- A file of all the papers, relative to the collections made in Maryland, for the sufferers by fire in Boston in 1760.

Found in the Land Office.

1 folio MS. Proceedings of the Lower House of Assembly
from 1714 to 1722.

*Letters and Papers found in the Committee Room of the
House of Delegates.*

A copy of the Charter of Virginia, by King James I. dated
April 10, 1606.

Several Letters from General Washington, acknowledging
the vote of thanks passed the Legislature of this State;
his opinion relative to the rank of officers in the army,
and one to Governor Paca, announcing his determi-
nation to resign his command of the army, &c. &c.
dated June 14, 1783.

A printed Pamphlet, being a collection of Papers relative
to half pay, &c. granted by Congress, to the officers
of the army, and the celebrated Newburg Letters, &c.
1783.

A printed folio, showing the State of the emissions of Con-
tinental money, and accounts against each of the old
States; for taxes, &c. &c. by the United States.

*Original Letters and other papers found in the Committee
Room of the Senate.*

Agreement between Lord Baltimore and Thomas and Ri-
chard Penn, dated July 4th, 1760. This document is
highly important, illustrating as it does, the whole
controversy between Maryland and Pennsylvania, from
1732 down to 1760.

A Letter from King Charles II. to Lord Baltimore, relat-
ing to grants, 1682.

A bundle of papers, relating to the Maryland troops, 1776.

Arrangement of the officers of the Maryland line, 1777.

Instructions of Delegates in Congress, 1777.

Letter from Daniel of St. Thos. Jenifer, advising the passage of an act to incorporate the two branches of the Legislature, into one for twelve months, and out of this conjunction, to create an Executive Council, &c. dated February 2, 1777.

A MS. Message of the House of Delegates, dated April 10, 1777, to the Senate, dissenting from the proposition of that body, to strike out (of the 'act to punish crimes and misdemeanors, and to prevent the growth of toryism) the punishment intended for those who shall persuade or entice our people to return to, or acknowledge a dependence on Great Britain.

Letter from Le Chavalier D'Anmours to the Governor of Maryland, dated November 30, 1778.

A bundle of Certificates and Receipts for substitutes, 1781.

A general return of the non-commissioned officers and privates of the late American Army, specifying the strength of the several lines, &c. &c.

Letters from the President of Congress, in 1778 and 1783.

Letters from Robert Morris, dated June 5th, and 20th, 1783.

Letter from the Governor of South Carolina, about exiled citizens, &c. 1783.

Letter from Daniel Carroll and James McHenry, with inclosures, dated November 3, 1783.

A bundle of Papers, containing the demand made on Congress in 1783 by 400 mutinous soldiers, headed by Carbery, Sullivan, &c. and all the concurrent proceedings had thereon.

A plan of the City and environs of Baltimore, 1799.

Survey of the waters adjacent to Baltimore, with the soundings of the Ferry Branch and Ridgely's Cove.

A list of Documents and Papers deposited in the Council Chamber, as directed by Resolutions No. 44, December Session 1834, to wit:

- Original MS. Journals of the lower house of the Province of Maryland, from Sept. 1704, to July 1717, both inclusive, 22 v.
- Do, from April 1720 to 1721, and from 1723 to 1727, 4 v.
- Do. of the Council of the Province of Maryland in Assembly, &c. to wit: for 1656, 1676, 1678, 1683, 1692, 1694, 1695, 1696, 1696, 1698, 1699, 1700, 1702, and 1603, in all 30 v.
- Do. of the upper house of the Province of Maryland, to wit: for 1682, 1713, 1718, 1719, 1720, 1722, 1729, 1749, and 1754, 11 v.
- Do. of the Assembly, &c. 1683, 1693, 1701, 1702, 1710, 1711, 1714, 1725, 1726, 1727, 1730, 1749, 1750, 1757, 1758, 1760, 1763, 1773, 1777, and 1778, in all. 25 v.
- Do, Minutes of the Council Proceeding, &c. to wit: from 20th March 1777, to 5th November 1785, both inclusive, 11 v.
- 1 Copy of the Journal of the Committee of Accounts for May 1695, 1 v.
- A list of property in Calvert county chargeable with assesment, 1786,
- Several letters from Lord Hill, the Duke of Bedford, Earl Egremont, William Pitt, (Earl Chatham,) &c. from 1748 to 1763.
- The opinions of Daniel Dulany, Stephen Bordly, &c. on the acts of Assembly, relating to the paper currency office, in 1758 and 1764, with other papers on the same subject, as far back as 1748.
- Instructions from the Lords Commissioners of the Board of Trade, &c.
- An original letter from Lord Fairfax to Governor Sharpe, respecting the new boundary line between Maryland and Virginia, dated September 24th, 1753.

A bundle of papers relating to Indians Affairs, (very interesting)

Proceedings of the Governor and Council for 1699, 1700 and 1701. 1 v.

Proceedings of the Committee appointed to inspect the Public Records of the Province in 1724, 1 v.

Commission Book, from 1726 to 1783; 1 v.

MS. Proceedings (bound) of the Council of Safety, from 29th August 1775 to 10th March 1777, 1 v.

9 Quarto volumes of the rough minutes of the Proceedings of the Council of Safety, from 18th January 1776, to 13th June 1778.

Original MS. Proceedings of the Convention, for 1775 and 1776 (much injured.)

Proceedings of a Court of Delegates, in 1751.

Original Draft of the Constitution, reported from the committee of the whole, &c.

Official copy of the Declaration of Rights.

Original Letter from John Hancock, communicating the adoption of the Declaration of Independence by Congress, &c. &c. dated July 8th, 1776.

Letter from the same, relative to the intercepted letters from Lord Germane, to Governor Eden, dated August 16th, 1776.

Letters from General Charles Lee to Samuel Purviance and Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer, relative to the seizure of the person and papers of Governor Eden, dated April 6th and May 6th, 1776.

Proceedings of the Eastern Shore Branch of the Council of Safety, 1775.

Proceedings of the Commissioners appointed by law, to preserve confiscated British Property in 1781, '82, '83 and '84.

Original Subscription Book, for extending the navigation of the Potowmack in 1785.

Files of papers selected from the Council of Safety's papers, from letter A to Z. 1775 to 1776.

Do. of Letters to the Council of Safety, from A to E. H to T. W and Y. 1775, '76.

Do. of Letters written by the Council of Safety, from A to N. and S to Z. 1775, '76.

Do. of the Reports and resolves of the Convention and County of Safety, 1775, '76.

Original Draft of the Constitution of the Council of Safety 1775.

- Original Report on the Emission of Bills of Credit, &c.
 The Manuscript Proceedings of a meeting of the Delegates appointed by the several counties of the Province of Maryland, at the city of Annapolis, on Wednesday the 2d of July, 1775, and continued till the 14th day of August in the same year. This Document is highly interesting and important, being the foundation stone of our happy Government.
- Correspondence between the Conventions of Maryland and Virginia, 1775.
- A file of express letters from various parts of the Union, &c. &c. 1776.
- Correspondence and Proceedings of the Committee of Observation of the several counties of the Province, 1776.
- Original Draft of the Bill of Rights, and amendments by the committee of the whole, also the amendments to the Form of Government.
- Original letters from Patrick Henry, Hancock, Pendleton, Franklin, &c. &c.
- Action of the Convention of Maryland, relative to disputed Territory, &c. &c. between Md. and Va.
- A Manuscript of the Declaration of the Convention, empowering our Deputies in Congress, to join with a majority of the United Colonies, in declaring them Independent States, &c. &c. 1776.
- Proceedings of the Committee of Observation for Baltimore, relative to the intercepted letters of Lord Germaine to Governor Eden, also several of said intercepted letters, 1776.
- Letters to and from the Convention and our Deputies in Congress.
- File of letters from Messrs. Chase, Stone, Paca, &c. &c. Deputies in Congress, 1776.
- Test Book of the Convention, Council of Safety and Executive, from 1776 to 1782.
- Several files of letters from General Washington, and others, to the Governor and Council, &c. &c. 1781.
- A copy of the articles of capitulation between General Washington and Earl Cornwallis, at York, 1781.
- Book of Entries of Orders issued by the Governor and Council on the Treasury in 1782 and '83.
- Original letters from General Washington to Governors Johnson and Lee, dated 17th May 1778, and October 1781.

- Amount and valuation of real and personal property in the several counties of this State, in 1783.
- Several files of letters from and to the Governor and Council, 1783.
- A list of real and personal property in Allegany county, in 1793.
- A file of all the papers relative to the collections made in Maryland, for the sufferers by fire in Boston, 1760.
- Proceedings of the lower house of Assembly, from 1614 to 1722, 1 volume.
- Several letters from General Washington to Governor Paca, &c. &c. in 1783.
- A copy of the charter of Virginia, by King James I. dated April 10th, 1606.
- Agreement between Lord Baltimore and Thomas and Richard Penn, dated July 4th, 1760.
- A letter from King Charles II. to Lord Baltimore, relative to grants, 1682.
- Instructions to Deputies in Congress, 1777.
- A letter from Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer, dated February 2nd, 1777.
- A MS. Message of the House of Delegates to the Senate, relative to the act to punish crimes and misdemeanors, and to prevent the growth of Toryism, &c. &c.
- Letter from Le Chevalier D'Anmonis, to the Governor of Maryland, 1778.
- Letters from the President of Congress, in 1778 and 1783.
- Letters from Robert Morris, 1783.
- Letter from the Governor of South Carolina, 1783.
- Letter from Daniel Carroll and James McHenry, 1783.
- A bundle of papers, containing the demand made on Congress in 1783, by 400 mutinous soldiers, &c. &c.
- A bundle of letters from the trustees of this Province, in London, &c. from 1733 to 1766.
- A bundle of letters to said trustees, &c. from 1749 to 1764; and a variety of interesting letters and papers contained in bundles from No. 1 to No. 17.

*A list of Documents and Papers deposited in the Land Office,
as directed by Resolution No. 44, December Session,
1834, to wit:*

Land Record (copy) from 1664 to 1728, folio.

The original account of Col. Thomas Cresap, against Lord Baltimore, for running the Meridian Line from the first fountain of Potowmack, with the vouchers, &c. dated July 11th, 1771.

Plats and certificates of Nanticoke Indian Lands.

Arrears of quit rents, and other papers relating to the office, 1767 and '83.

A bundle of Surveys of vacant lands, &c. in several counties from 1757 to 1763.

A bundle of Caveats from 1751 to 1795, with other papers relating to Lands, &c. &c.

An alphabetical list of discharged soldiers of two Battalions of Milina, raised to serve in the Continental Army in 1781.

An alphabetical list of privates of the Maryland Line to whom five months pay was advanced, &c. 1780 and 1781, with other papers and letters relating to the officers and soldiers of the revolutionary war, 1782 and 1783.

A bundle of papers relating to the Maryland Troops, 1776. Roster of officers of the Maryland Line, 1777.

A bundle of certificates and receipts for substitutes, 1781.

A general return of the non-commissioned officers and privates of the late American Army, &c. &c.

A list of Printed Volumes, &c. deposited in the State Library, as directed by Resolution No. 44, December Session 1834, to wit:

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| Laws of Maryland, for 1747, 1753, 1765, 1766, 1769, 1777, 1778, 1769, 1780, 1781, 1782, 1783, 1784, 1785, 1786, 1787, 1788, and 1792, in all | 25 v. |
| Parks edition of the Laws of Maryland, to 1727, | 1 v. |
| Laws of Maryland for 1803, 1805, 1807 and 1809, (Quarto,) | 5 v. |
| Laws of Virginia, from 1661 to 1734, (folio) and for 1779, (quarto,) | 2 v. |
| Laws of New Jersey, for 1779 and 1780, | 1 v. |
| Votes and Proceedings of the lower house for 1765, | 2 v. |
| Votes and Proceedings of the House of Delegates for 1782, 1784, 1785, 1787, 1788, 1789, | 9 v. |
| Votes and Proceedings of the Senate for 1784, 1787, '89. | |
| A Printed Pamphlet, being a collection of General Washington's papers, relative to half pay, &c. and the celebrated Newburg letters, &c. &c. 1783. | |
| A printed folio, showing the state of the emissions of Continental money and accounts against each of the thirteen States, for taxes, &c. &c. by the United States Government. | |
| A Plan or Map of the City and environs of Baltimore, &c. 1799. | |
| Survey of the waters adjacent to Baltimore, with Soundings of the Ferry Branch and Ridgely's Cove. | |

